MEMORANDUM OF INTERVIEW OF JAMES R. BOATWRIGHT

On September 23, 1976, James R. Boatwright, Assistant Chief, Memphis Fire Department, telephoned, in response to a previous request for information, and advised that former Lt. Jack Smith of the fire department is now retired and living in Mississippi. He can be reached on telephone no.

Boatwright confirmed that Smith was Floyd Newsum's commanding officer on April 3, 1968, and was the individual who telephoned Newsum on the night of the 3rd and ordered him to report for duty at fire station no. 31 instead of no. 2 on the 4th. Boatwright said they were having a very tense situation during that time and a number of threatening calls (not directed against anyone in particular) had been received at fire station no. 2. Boatwright stated that he was the assistant chief dispatcher in 1968 and did not have first hand knowledge of the transfers. However, he said the consensus of opinion was that both Newsum and Norvell Wallace were transferred for their own protection, since they were the only blacks assigned to fire station no. 2.

Boatwright stated that former captain James O. Barnett is now retired and living in Memphis. His telephone no. is

James F. Walker

JAMES F. WALKER
Attorney, Department of Justice